

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 06214 101133Z

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /013 W
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R 100930Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5593

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, APER (O'BRIEN, ROBERT P., FSR-7)

REF: STATE 256821

1. AS A RESULT OF THE MISSION PERSONNEL REDUCTION, THE THREE AMERICAN RSO POSITIONS WERE VACATED AND THE FSLE SECURITY SPECIALIST, SECURITY ASSISTANT, AND CLERK POSITIONS ABOLISHED. THERE IS AT PRESENT NO OPERATIONAL REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE IN VIENTIANE. IN JULY 1975, A/RSO O'BRIEN, AT THE BEHEST OF THE DEPARTMENT, ACCEPTED ASSIGNMENT AS ASSISTANT GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER. IT WAS CLEAR AT THE TIME THAT SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD NOT TAKE UP A MAJOR PORTION OF HIS TIME. IN SEPTEMBER, THE THEN SUPERVISORY GSO, JOHN M. POWELL, DEPARTED POST WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT, AND MR. O'BRIEN ASSUMED THE DUTIES OF SUPERVISORY GSO. THIS POSITION IS HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE, INVOLVING SUPERVISION OF A BROAD RANGE OF OF ACTIVITIES AND OVER 125 EMPLOYEES. MR. O'BRIEN HAS RECEIVED FORM DS-1032 (NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION) DATED AUGUST 3, 1975, REASSIGNING HIM FROM SECURITY OFFICER TO GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S POSITION THAT MR. O'BRIEN IS SERVING AS SUPERVISORY GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER WITH THE ADDITIONAL DUTY OF POST SECURITY OFFICER. AS PSO, HIS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE CONCERNED WITH PHYSICAL AND PERSONNEL SECURITY, E&E PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS.

2. EMBASSY'S CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL IS VERY LIMITED. FSLE APPLICANT AND UPDATE INVESTI-
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GATIONS ARE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. FOR DEPARTMENT AMERICAN

EMPLOYEES, THE MAIN LIMITATION IS THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES. THE WHOLESAL REDUCTION OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL HAS RESULTED IN THE COMPLETE DEPARTURE OF ALL AID PERSONNEL, THE REDUCTION OF USIS TO ONE OFFICER AND A GREATLY REDUCED STATE COMPLEMENT. THIS, COUPLED WITH THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF EMBASSY RECORDS, SEVERELY LIMITS THE SCOPE OF ANY INVESTIGATION. THE LACK OF AN FSLE SECURITY STAFF AND THE CURRENT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT MAKE THE CONDUCT OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS FOR FSLE PERSONNEL NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. RECORD CHECKS OF THE LAO NATIONAL POLICE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION ARE NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR APPROPRIATE.

3. MR. O'BRIEN IS MORE THAN WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY AND ALL INVESTIGATIVE REQUESTS; HOWEVER, SY/I MUST BE PREPARED TO EXPECT TOTALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSES IN MANY CASES. THE VERY LIMITED SECRETARIAL AND CLERICAL STAFF MAKES THE TYPING OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. WOULD A/SY/I BE WILLING TO ACCEPT TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSES FOR NEGATIVE REPORTS?

4. CONCERNING MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SINCE MR. O'BRIEN IS NOT SERVICING AS A TRUE RSO, HE SHOULD NOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR SUCH REPORTS. HE WILL, HOWEVER, MAKE PERIODIC UPDATES IN MEMORANDUM FORM ON THOSE SUBJECTS OF SECURITY INTEREST.

5. IN SUMMARY, EMBASSY FEELS THAT MR. O'BRIEN IS FULLY OCCUPIED WITH GSO/PSO FUNCTIONS. IF DEPARTMENT SEES A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE FOR RSO IN LAOS, WE BELIEVE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR TDY COVERAGE FROM ANOTHER POST. ALTERNATIVELY, MR. O'BRIEN COULD REVERT TO RSO POSITION AND A NEW SUPERVISORY GSO ASSIGNED. (MR. O'BRIEN STILL CONSIDERS HIMSELF A SECURITY OFFICER FOR CAREER PLANNING PURPOSES. CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI06214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750390-0387
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751160/aaaaccgk.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 256821
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, APER, (O'BRIEN, ROBERT P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006